



# FOR PUBLIC RELEASE: Coroner Judgement of Inquiry and Inquest Inquisition and Recommendations

Department of Justice, Legal Services  
Yukon Coroners Service  
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Yukon Coroners Service: Judgement of Inquiry into the death of: Tristan Chapman

Coroner Investigative File No.: 45202015011

Name: Tristan Chapman Date of Birth: 1997/10/15 Date of Death: 2015/05/22  
YYYY/MM/DD YYYY/MM/DD

Address: Ross River, Yukon Street Address Province/Territory Postal Code

Ethnic Origin: First Nations Location of Death: Yukon River - Whitehorse

## Cause of Death

Drowning

## Manner of Death

Undetermined

## Autopsy Findings

An autopsy of the body of Mr. Chapman was performed at Vancouver General Hospital on June 8, 2015.

The autopsy found that Mr. Chapman had normal findings of someone who had been immersed in water for a period of time. There was no evidence of significant natural disease or injury. There was no pathological evidence to suggest that Mr. Chapman had been involved in a significant assault at around the time of his death, or shortly beforehand.

## Toxicological Findings

Blood tests revealed a blood alcohol content of .11% and negative results for common illicit drugs of abuse.

**Circumstances of Death**

On May 22, 2015, Mr. Chapman was with a group of friends at Shipyards Park between the hours of approximately 9:00pm and 11:30pm. He was observed to be consuming alcohol during this time.

At approximately 10:18pm Mr. Chapman and a female individual got into an argument. Mr. Chapman was upset and took off from the group. He was last seen walking north along the Millennium Trail towards Boston Pizza. He was reported missing on May 25, 2015.

On June 3, 2015 the body of Tristan Chapman was located in the Yukon River adjacent to the Marwell industrial area.

**Significant Factors/Conclusions**

There were no witnesses to Mr. Chapman entering the water and the circumstances of how he ended up in the river may never be known. The last time Mr. Chapman was seen he was emotionally upset following an argument. Use of alcohol prior to death may have rendered Mr. Chapman more susceptible to an accidental entry into the water.

When there is no clear indication of manner of death or where the evidence may suggest either, the manner is ruled as Undetermined. This does not suggest that the death was not one manner or another, it means that there isn't enough information (despite a full and thorough investigation) to conclusively rule the manner of death.

**Recommendations**

No recommendations

*Michael*  
Signature, Chief Coroner

*Yukon*  
Province/Territory

*Oct. 7, 2016*  
Date

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Clear